

Elective Home Education

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A handbook for parents in Lincolnshire

Lincolnshire County Council

How home education works

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Contents

- Letter from the Director of Children's Servicesii**

- Part 1 1**
 - Introduction1
 - Lincolnshire’s approach to Elective home education2
 - The overview3
 - FAQs.....3

- Part 2.....20**
 - Getting started 20

- Part 3.....27**
 - What happens next?..... 27
 - Case studies 35

- Part 4.....40**
 - Special educational needs and disabilities 40

- Part 5.....45**
 - Preparing for life post 16..... 45
 - Post 16 the next stage..... 49

- Part 6.....59**
 - Useful websites and information 59

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Dear Parent/Carer,

As a local authority Lincolnshire actively seeks to work with parents and carers to ensure that children get the best possible opportunities to achieve their potential, wherever they may be educated.

The Local Authority is committed to supporting all families, especially those who are embarking on or who may be thinking about embarking on Elective Home Education for the first time. In addition we are keen to make available support for those who are already engaged in educating their children at home and we hope that this "plain English" handbook, which contains information, advice and guidance will help inform all those who choose to electively home educate their children.

The Local Authority developed the enclosed handbook, involving parents and carers in deciding on the content, style and layout. Parents have also contributed by writing a section on their own experiences of starting out on Elective Home Education; their openness and honesty in describing their experiences is appreciated and will hopefully give confidence to you as you plan and provide educational experiences for your children.

The intention of the handbook is to answer your questions for those of you who are about to embark on home educating your child(ren), to provide further advice, support and guidance to more established home educators and to provide signposting to organizations and agencies that can contribute to your work as parent educators.

We hope this is helpful and welcome further comments on how we can improve this resource when it is next reviewed.

Yours sincerely,

Heather Sandy

Executive Director of Children's Services



Introduction

This handbook has been produced for parents who have chosen to educate their child at home, rather than at school. It was originally written in response to a request from a group of home educating parents who felt that families new to Elective Home Education (EHE) would benefit from a handbook containing advice and information.

It is intended primarily for those who are new to EHE and therefore we have tried to keep 'jargon' to a minimum. Part 1 gives a broad overview of many of the issues and concerns parents have about home educating and may provide you with some of the answers to questions you may have been seeking. The remainder of the handbook tries to provide more detail about specific aspects which parents often raise and also provides details of useful contacts, websites etc.

A number of parents who home educate their children have helped us by contributing ideas, suggesting useful resources, providing real life case studies and providing feedback to the draft document. We are extremely grateful to them for their help and constructive suggestions.

We hope you will enjoy reading the handbook and find it to be supportive and helpful. If you have any queries about points raised in it or wish to provide feedback, please contact by email at: EHE@lincolnshire.gov.uk .

Notes

- To make the document less clumsy 'parents and carers' will read as parents and 'child or children' as child. We have also used the term 'child' to cover the entire age range for statutory education i.e. 5 – 16 years
- Although we recognize that education can take place at all times and in all places, for convenience 'education otherwise than at school' will be referred to as 'elective home education', 'home education' and 'home schooling'.
- To the best knowledge of the authors, the information contained in this handbook is accurate at the time of printing.
- The websites included in this handbook are there as a reference point or for your help. The Local Authority does not verify the validity of the information given, nor does it necessarily agree with the views or opinions expressed in these sites.

Lincolnshire's approach to home education:

Lincolnshire County Council (the local authority):

- **Believes that education is a fundamental right for every child and aims to work in partnership with parents who electively home educate and supports their right to do so.**
- **Believes that parents are the prime educator of their child within or outside the schooling system.**
- **Encourages parents to enroll their child at school but also recognizes that parents have a right to educate their child at home. The authority wishes to work with parents who home educate in order to safeguard the educational interests of children and young people and to ensure that those children are provided with efficient, full-time education suitable to their age, ability and aptitude and to any special educational needs which they might have.**
- **Seeks to build effective and positive relationships with parents who home educate by establishing mutual understanding, trust and respect.**

When deciding whether the education a child is receiving is suitable to their age, ability, aptitude and any special educational needs they may have, we aim to see the child and have a discussion with him/her to enable them to give their views.

The purpose of this document is to outline how this mutually beneficial relationship operates and aims to:

- **Clarify the legal position with regards to Elective Home Education (EHE)**
- **Set out the parents' rights and responsibilities to educate their children at home**
- **Explain the legal duties and responsibilities of head teachers and the local authority**

The overview:

FAQs

This section of the Handbook will give you an overview of many of the questions you may have about educating your child at home. Further information and details about many of the areas covered here will be found in other sections.

What is Elective Home Education?

Elective Home Education (EHE) is the term used by the Department for Education (DfE) to describe the education provided by parents or carers at home, rather than providing education for their children by sending them to school. This is different to home tuition provided by a local authority or education provided by a local authority other than in school.

Do children have to go to school?

No. The responsibility for a child's education rests with their parents. In England, school is not compulsory, **but education is.**

The ability to home school is a right described in Article 2 of Protocol 1 of the European convention on Human rights. The convention states:

“No person shall be denied the right to education. In the exercise of any functions which it assumes in relation to education and to teaching, the State shall respect the right of parents to ensure such education and teaching is in conformity with their own religious and philosophical convictions.” Parents therefore have a right to educate their children at home.

What does the law say?

The law gives parents the choice of educating their child at home so long as they ensure that the child receives an efficient and suitable, full-time education.

Section 7 of the Education Act 1996 states that “The parent of every child of compulsory school age shall cause him to receive efficient full-time education, suitable –

1. To his age, ability and aptitude and
2. To any special educational needs he may have – either by regular attendance at school or otherwise.”

The duty on parents to secure the education of their children can be done either by regular attendance at school or 'otherwise'. For most children this means attending their local school but some parents choose to send their children to private or independent schools and others choose to educate their children themselves. The law states that whichever choice a parent makes, their child's education remains their responsibility.

What is an 'efficient' and 'suitable' education?

The terms "efficient" and "suitable" education are not defined in law, despite the detailed prescription of expectations in schools. However a landmark ruling in 1985 broadly described an "efficient" education as one that:

"Primarily equips a child for life within the community of which he is a member, rather than the way of life in the country as a whole, as long as it does not foreclose the child's options in later years to adopt some other form of life if he wishes to do so".

This ruling means that parents and carers can choose their preferred educational approach. It is up to the parents/carers to decide what, how and when their child studies, providing it is appropriate for their age, ability and aptitude.

The Local Authority has no right to support or endorse any particular approach and its responsibility is to ensure that whatever style of education is provided meets the needs of each young person in EHE and that each one makes progress. The LA also has a duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children under the powers of the 2002 Education Act and 2004 Children Act. These powers allow the LA to insist on seeing children in order to enquire about their welfare where there are grounds for concern. However such powers do not allow the LA to see and question children in order to establish whether they are receiving a suitable education.

What is a full-time education?

There is no established definition of full-time education. The DfE guidelines say that children should be taught for a minimum of 21½ and 25 hours a week for 38 weeks a year. However this measurement of 'contact time' is not relevant to home education where teaching and learning can take place at any time and where children may enjoy almost continuous one – to one contact. Education at home can be more flexible and less rigid than at school. Parents /carers can decide how to organize their child's education depending on their age, ability and preferred learning style.

What is compulsory school age?

Home educated children must receive full-time education from the beginning of the school term after their fifth birthday. Compulsory education continues until the last Friday in June in the school year in which they are 16 years. The school year runs from 1st September to the 31st August of the following year. However the minimum age at which young people in England can leave learning has been raised and young people are now required to remain in learning or training up until their 18th birthday. Post 16 the choices are to stay in full-time education, either at college or school sixth form, go into an apprenticeship or find employment which has a training element. This requirement does not apply to young people with level 3 qualifications, taken as being 2 'A' levels. This post 16 stage of learning will not be monitored by the LA.

What do parents need to think about before starting to home educate?

As a parent you are required to ensure your child receives a full-time education, suitable for their age, ability and aptitude. You do not need to be a teacher but you do need to be able to provide an education which will cater for the child's physical, intellectual, social, emotional and spiritual development. Qualities such as patience, enthusiasm and flexibility are invaluable. You do not need to know everything. Helping your child to learn how to learn and think and find out information for themselves is as important as developing a sound knowledge base.

Below are some suggestions of what you could do in order to meet the needs of your child:

- Follow your child's interests and provide materials and experiences which encourage them to pursue these
- Guide your child's learning and provide access to a wide range of subjects, activities and experiences
- Provide your child with access to resources/materials such as paper, pens, books, craft materials, a computer if possible
- Ensure they have opportunities for physical activities and interaction with other children and adults
- Make sure your child's individual learning needs are met, including any special educational needs your child may have
- Monitor and record their progress on a regular basis

- **Meet the costs of your child’s education including any examination entry costs. Lincolnshire County Council as the Local Authority is unable to provide any financial assistance for elective home education.**
- **Organize and monitor any work experiences and ensure the conditions are appropriate and that insurance is in place**
- **Check the credentials of any tutors or helpers you may decide to employ or involve in your child’s education**

Do I need to have a set timetable?

There is no requirement to follow a set timetable although a clear plan does help. The approach to home education varies from family to family. Most families tend to have a plan of what it is they wish to achieve and within the provision, there is usually a balance between structured study and less structured learning activities, often directed by the child and arising from their interests. Some families seem to like a formal session each morning and then the afternoons can be given over to a wide range of practical activities including visits, outings, sports such as swimming, cooking, art/craft projects and music tuition and practice.

What teaching and learning methods should I use?

Home educators and their children are a very diverse group and as a result choose many different approaches to learning. Some families choose to have a very structured and formal style, almost like running a school at home. Some choose very informal methods, learning as opportunities arise and following the child’s interests. This is often called the autonomous approach as it is child led. Other families may have project based learning, whilst others will buy a curriculum or distance learning materials specifically designed for children being home educated. Some families choose to pay for a private tutor but parents need to be sure of their suitability with regards to qualifications and experience.

The law allows for diversity in education and parents have a right to have their child educated in accordance with their own beliefs and values, provided that the education is efficient, full-time and suitable to the child’s age, ability, aptitude and special needs.

Do I need to keep records?

Although home education does not require that you follow a set timetable, some choose to do so, whilst others prefer a more flexible approach which allows for a more ‘autonomous’

style of learning. However you choose to structure your child's learning and time, it is helpful to keep some records of their progress. Records can take any form:

- Reports and diaries
- Examples of work (it is helpful if these are dated)
- Photographs, drawings, recordings etc.
- Plans and programs of work
- Evidence of achievements and progress made

These records will be very useful when you have your first visit by an EHE adviser.

Does the National Curriculum apply to me?

The National Curriculum only applies to state schools. When a child is educated at home it is the decision of the parent as to what to teach and how the child learns. Some parents do choose to follow the National Curriculum as the subjects provide a broad and balanced curriculum and could be useful as a guide. Following the National Curriculum may also help your child if he/she returns to school at some point in the future or if you wish to pursue more formal qualifications, such as GCSEs.

The National Curriculum subjects are: English, Math's, Science, History, Geography, Technology, Art, Music, Physical Education, a modern language and Religious Education. A copy of the National Curriculum is available on the internet – see the section on useful websites for details of how to access this. Many of the commercially produced textbooks and workbooks available from bookshops and libraries now relate their content to it.

[View details of what the National Curriculum covers.](#)

Can I choose how to educate my child?

Parents who choose to home educate their children may choose how they wish to do this. The type of educational activity can be varied and flexible. Home educating parents are not required to:

- teach the National Curriculum
- provide a broad and balanced curriculum
- have a timetable
- have premises equipped to any particular standard
- set hours during which education will take place
- have any specific qualifications

- make detailed plans in advance
- observe school hours, days or terms
- give formal lessons
- mark work done by the child
- formally assess progress or set developmental objectives
- reproduce school type peer group socialization
- match school-based, age specific standards.

Do I need anyone's permission to educate my child at home?

No. However the Local Authority has a statutory duty to satisfy itself that every child receives an education suitable to their age, ability and aptitude and to any special educational needs they may have, including children who are educated at home.

Parents are not required to register or seek approval from the local authority if they wish to home educate their children, although parents of a pre-school child are encouraged to notify the local authority, if they intend to home educate by telephoning the Customer Services Centre at Lincolnshire County Council – 01522 782030. Parents may decide to exercise their right to home educate their child from an early age, so the child may never have been enrolled at a school. They may also choose to home educate at any point up to the end of compulsory school age.

If your child attends a local authority maintained school you should inform the head teacher of that school in writing if you intend to remove your child from the school roll. This is to confirm that provision is being made for your child's education, otherwise than at school.

If you do not notify the school of your decision, the Local Authority, through the Inclusion & Attendance Team, will investigate the absence and may take legal action.

If your child attends a Special School you must notify the Local Authority if you intend to remove him/ her from that School. The child cannot be removed from the school roll without the agreement of the Local Authority (LA). The LA needs to continue to hold an Annual Review of the Statement of Special Educational Needs/Education, Health and Care plan to ensure your child's special educational needs are met and also to consider whether the EHC plan is still relevant.

You will find more information about home educating children with additional needs in another section.

Will I have to arrange for SATs testing?

No. It is only state schools that are required to carry out SATs tests. The Local Authority will not test your child.

Parents often find that the level of questions and content of a child's conversation demonstrates their level of understanding and if they are making progress. Other parents prefer to have a systematic way, through tests or other means, of knowing their child is actually making progress at a pace appropriate to his/her ability. You could also look at National Curriculum Guidelines to give you some idea of what your child is expected to be able to do at different stages or to guide you when planning the next steps in learning.

How can my child take GCSEs and other examinations?

All examination boards offer examinations for external candidates. If you and your child have considered long-term job/career aspirations, you may decide they need to take formal qualifications. It is possible for young people to take exams as external candidates at various examination centers. You will need to find a registered center for the exams. It may also be advisable to contact individual examination boards to discuss the arrangements for private candidates. Further information about taking GCSEs is included elsewhere and is also available from the Home Education Support Organizations.

Can my child take part in work experience?

There are strict laws regarding children in employment and these cover what is permitted in terms of hours worked, types of work and places of work. Children who attend school normally attend a work experience placement in the school year 10 or 11. This is usually a one or two week placement to give children a taste of what the world of work is like or to give them an insight into a job or career which they think they might like to pursue.

If you wish to arrange work experience for your child you will have to find a suitable placement, be responsible for all the arrangements and for checking that all the necessary legal requirements have been met for example Health and Safety checks, insurance etc.

Will my child be entitled to careers advice?

Information and advice can be found on the National Careers Service website at <https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/>

Children under the age of 13 may use this website but will not be able to access the web-chat or phone line support offered by the National Careers Service.

What if my child has special educational needs?

Children with Special Educational Needs can be educated at home whether they have a Statement of Special Educational Needs or an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) or not and parents/carers do not need to have any special qualifications or training.

Where a child does have a Statement of Special Educational Needs or an EHCP, Children's Services has a statutory duty to continue to hold annual reviews. This will include assessing whether the Statement/Plan is still appropriate and whether it needs to be amended or cease to be maintained. If the Statement / Plan is to continue to be maintained, then Children's Services has a legal duty to ensure that the child's needs are being met.

What if my child has special educational needs?

Children with Special Educational Needs can be educated at home whether they have an Education Health Care Plan (EHCP) or not and parents/carers do not need to have any special qualifications or training.

Where a child does have an EHCP, Children's Services has a statutory duty to continue to hold Annual Reviews. This will include assessing whether the Plan is still appropriate and whether it needs to be amended or cease to be maintained. If the Plan is to continue to be maintained, then Children's Services has a legal duty to ensure that the child's needs are being met.

Can I home educate my child who is currently attending a special school?

Parents need to inform Children's Services if they intend to educate their child at home as they will need the consent of the Local Authority for the child's name to be removed from the roll of a Special School. Parents need to be sure that, as with all children educated at home, they are able to demonstrate that the provision they are making for their child is "appropriate" and will meet the child's needs identified in their EHCP.

If parents disagree with Children's Services in respect of their child's assessment, they have the right of appeal to the Special Educational Needs Tribunal. Further information about this can be obtained from your child's named Caseworker within the Special Educational Needs and Disability Team.

A child with an EHCP who has been registered at a mainstream school can be educated at home providing arrangements are judged to be suitable.

Can I educate my child part-time at home and part-time at school?

Flexi-schooling is where children are educated partly at school and partly elsewhere, which is usually at home. Some schools in Lincolnshire have been happy to accommodate this. There is no legal reason why a child, who remains registered at a school cannot be educated part of the time there and part of the time at home, as long as the child attends regularly on the days which have been agreed with the school. This may be on a short term or long term basis.

Flexi-schooling or flexible school attendance requires an agreement between the school and the parents which clearly identifies:

- The days, dates and times when the child is to be in school
- The subjects that the school is providing and the ones which the parents will deliver.

The child will be required to follow the National Curriculum whilst at school but not whilst he or she is being educated at home.

Unlike full-time education, any agreement between the child's parents and the school where the child is to be flexi-schooled is at the head teacher's discretion. There is no duty on a school to provide flexi-schooling. Head teachers may choose to refuse a flexi schooling arrangement because of the way that the time not spent in school has to be recorded. Since 2013, the Government has required children who are being flexi schooled to be marked as absent from school, when they are receiving home education. This may deter some schools from agreeing to a flexi-school arrangement.

If a school does agree to 'flexi-schooling' it is for the school to monitor the child's progress, not an EHE adviser.

Can I change my mind about elective home education?

If you change your mind about teaching your child at home, or your child wishes to return to school, then you can seek a place in school. Once you have decided which school you would like your child to attend, you should make contact with the school to ensure they have a place available and if so to arrange a visit.

You will need to complete a Midyear Application Form unless you are seeking a place at the start of secondary education. Lincolnshire County Council Midyear Application Forms are available from any Lincolnshire School or from the Lincolnshire County Council Website. View the Lincolnshire County Council website admissions page.

[View the Lincolnshire County Council website.](#)

Or contact the education team by email at: schooladmissions@lincolnshire.gov.uk.

If you are educating a primary aged child at home but would like the child to attend a secondary school, you will need to contact the Local Authority to access all the information about secondary school admissions. This should be done at least a year in advance of the child starting secondary education. If you are considering applying for a place at a selective school i.e. a grammar school, the child will need to take the 11+ examination. In this case you should contact the school you are hoping to send your child to.

You might also want to look at www.grammarschools.lincs.sch.uk for further information about 11+ selection procedures and choices of selective schools in Lincolnshire.

Will the LA provide any support or finance?

Once you have made the decision to educate your child at home and they are removed from the roll of a school, the Local Authority is under no obligation to contribute towards the cost of your child's education. The Local Authority receives no funds from central government to support Elective Home Education. You will be expected to meet the cost, which may include books, equipment, educational visits, tutoring and examinations.

The Elective Home Education Monitoring Adviser allocated to your child will contact you to discuss the education being provided at home. The Monitoring Adviser will not be able to provide you with educational materials to help you teach your child but may be able to offer advice or support in finding what you need.

Will educating my child at home affect my Child Benefit payments?

Child Benefit stops on 31st August on or after your child's 16th birthday if they leave education or training. It continues if they stay in approved education or training but you must tell the Child Benefit Office

Approved education must be full-time more than 12 hours a week supervised study or course related work experience) and can include:

- A levels or similar e.g. International Baccalaureate
- NVQs and other vocational qualifications up to Level 3
- Home Education – if started before your child turned 16
- Traineeships in England

It is not necessary for your child to be studying for exams, receiving tuition or taking a course in order for the education to be classed as full time.

For further information [View the government website](#) or contact Education Otherwise.

Lone parents may find their information sheet on advice regarding Income Support payments helpful.

Where can I get some general support and advice?

The national Home Education Advisory Service (HEAS) can provide you with support and advice. The address is P.O. Box 98 Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire, AL8 6AN; Tel 01707 371854; email enquiries@heas.org.uk or [View the National home education advisory website](#)

HEAS is a support group which offers information for home educators including educational materials, resources, GCSE examinations, special educational needs, information technology and legal matters. Their publication 'The Home Education Handbook' is a useful guide for parents new to EHE.

Education Otherwise is a national organization which provides support and information for families whose children are being home educated. Their website is www.education.otherwise.org and the Helpline telephone number is 0845 478 6345.

Other useful websites are:

[View the Home Education website](#)

[View the Ed yourself website](#)

[View Edsplace website](#)

[View Parents in touch website](#)

[View Education now website](#)

Where can I get some local support and advice?

When you have contact from an EHE adviser, they will be happy to offer advice or signpost you to further help or support. You can always contact your EHE adviser after that first visit by emailing: EHE@lincolnshire.gov.uk or telephoning 01522 552222.

There are several groups of home educating parents across Lincolnshire. Two of the larger groups meet regularly and provide opportunities for adults to meet and chat and for the children to play, and for everyone to make friends. They can be found at:

- Lincoln – Tuesday mornings at ‘The Showroom’ which is an activity center on Tritton Road, Lincoln, LN6 7QY. There are PE and games activities for home educated children and they also run wall climbing sessions. Telephone 01522 508360
- Louth – Friday mornings at ‘The Meridian Leisure Centre’ Louth, where they have PE and swimming sessions. The center can be found at Wood Lane, Louth, LN11 8RS. Telephone 01507 607650

Other groups can be found through:

[View netmums website](#)- this site offers advice and information about activities for families, places to go, what’s on and more besides

[Facebook](#) - there is a closed group called Home Education Lincolnshire.

If I do educate my child at home, will someone come to check what I am doing?

When parents are new to home education, a member of the Inclusion and Attendance team will make an initial contact to the parents to discuss their decision and advise you where to find support and information. They will offer a ‘Single’ assessment Early Help Assessment (EHA) and if additional needs are identified will call a ‘Team Around the Child’ (TAC) meeting. This is to ensure that the educational and welfare needs of your child have been addressed.

Following this, an Elective Home Education adviser will arrange to contact you to discuss what provision is being made to educate your child at home.

(Further details are included elsewhere)

Can my child access out of school clubs?

Most schools run a range of out of school clubs but generally these are only open to children registered at the school. Some schools may run a Breakfast Club and/or a Kids Club to provide supervised activities for children before and after school hours. There is usually a charge for these. The Family Information Services maintain a database which includes details about out of school and holiday clubs so if you would like information about a kid’s club for your child, give them a call and they can find you details of care in your area. They can be contacted at:

Family Information Service

Monday to Friday 8.00am till 6.00pm

Customer Service Centre, Witham Park House
Waterside South Lincoln
LN5 7JN
Tel: 0800 195 1635

Email: fis@lincolnshire.gov.uk

There are a number of on-line search tools to help you find something to do in the school holidays:

- The What's On directory has a wide range of activities for the whole family.
- The Positive Activities Directory has a range of activities that children and young people can take part in after school or in the holidays, or at weekends.
- The Family Services Directory has events and activities in your local area. [View Family Services Directory website](#)

The Family Information Service have an on line directory which gives details of play and leisure activities across Lincolnshire. They also produce a "What's On Guide", which is a comprehensive guide to activities and events for children and teenagers throughout Lincolnshire, over the summer holidays. They also have information on other events and activities, including Short Break activities for children with disabilities.

You can also find lots of ideas for family activities, events and places to go on. [View visit Lincolnshire website](#), or visit the local library as they usually have information on local events.

Can I access specialist school facilities for example a science laboratory or art facilities?

Once you have removed your child from a school's roll, it is unlikely that the school (or any other) would offer the use of their premises or resources as your child would not be part of that educational community. The school would not be insured for 'outside' pupils and there would be issues around health and safety as the child may not be familiar with the school's safety routines. In addition the school would have to provide staffing to supervise the child and this would incur additional costs on their part.

However it is not unheard of for a home educated child to access specific lessons in their previous school where an amicable relationship still exists between the school and the family. In addition flexi-schooling does allow for a home educated child to attend school on a part-time basis. Details of this can be found earlier in this section of the handbook.

Are there any clubs or activities for my pre-school child?

If you have pre-school age children, you might be interested in the program of activities at the Sure Start Children's Centers in Lincolnshire, all of which offer services and activities for all families and carers with children from birth to five. There are now 48 Children's centers throughout the county. Details of where these are can be found on the Lincolnshire County Council website. [View the Lincolnshire County Council website.](#)

All centers offer a range of activities, free drop in sessions and helpful services including:

- Child and family health services
- Advice and information for families
- Childcare and early education
- Support for parents on a range of issues
- Training and employment advice
- Outreach services to children and families not attending the center.

Any adult caring for a child is welcome at any Children's Centre. This includes grandparents, fathers, foster carers etc. Each center will offer additional services and activities according to the needs of the community.

These can include:

- parent and toddler groups
- baby massage sessions
- messy play sessions
- baby clinics run by health visitors
- toy libraries and sensory rooms
- lone parent support groups
- twins and multiple birth support groups

You can join a Children's Centre and this is completely free. It means you can be kept up to date with services and activities provided by Centers near you. Some Children's Centers will allow home educated children to join in with activities, if they are in the 5 – 7 age range but this is at the discretion of the individual centers.

For details about Lincolnshire Surestart Children's centers go to the Lincolnshire County Council website and go to the Early Years section.

How can I find out about Arts Events which my child can participate in?

If you are interested in participating in high quality arts and cultural activities - working with creative industry professionals or undertaking the Arts Award qualification which is available from the age of 7 to 25 then please contact the team at Paradigm Arts. They offer a range of unique and year round programs of support which schools and groups access through subscription. In addition they provide connectivity through the Paradigm Arts Network to training and cultural events.

The team at Paradigm Arts work in partnership and collaboration with schools, community groups, agencies and cultural venues, to build programs of support which connect children and young people with unique and exciting opportunities. [View Paradigm website](#) for more information.

Can my child join in with any of the county music groups?

The Lincolnshire Music Service is primarily concerned with providing musical tuition and instruments for children in schools. However if your child is musical and wishes to join one of the Lincolnshire musical groups for example the Youth Orchestra, then you can find out how by logging onto www.lincsmusicservices.org and click on the tab marked County Groups. You will find information there about auditions, a calendar of events, fees etc.

What about sporting activities and events?

Active Lincolnshire aims to increase participation in sport and physical activities across the county.

[View active Lincolnshire website](#) to find out what's available for your child's age group.

Can I access health services for example speech therapy, sensory impaired service?

For most health services, you will need to go through your GP who should be able to refer you to specialist services. The Local Authority would only support specific needs as identified and detailed on a child's Statement of Special Needs or Education, Health and Care Plan.

However you can access help from the School Nursing Service. You can contact the Children and Young Peoples' Nurses Service by email to:
bs_healthservices@lincolnshire.gov.uk

We are from a traveler family and home-educate our children. Where can we go for help?

For all families, regardless of ethnicity or cultural background, there is a clear duty on parents to ensure that their children are offered an education that is suitable for their needs and ability, whilst also recognizing their cultural heritage. The Ethnic Minority and Traveler Education Team (EMTET) is a team of officers with a wealth of experience in working with Ethnic Minority and Traveler families.

The service aims to ensure equal access to education by:

- supporting Ethnic Minority and Traveler children to access and integrate into appropriate provision
- promoting and celebrating different cultures and lifestyles
- helping challenge racism and discrimination.

The EMTET service is able to advise you how to access education and resources. You or your child may approach the EMTET service for help and/or support.

They can also offer support to Ethnic Minority and Traveler families who may wish their children to start school but have no knowledge how to do this. Also if they are made aware

of a new family or a family in need, they may offer an initial ‘drop – in’ to see if they can offer support. However they cannot offer teaching support.

The address for this service is:

EMTET Service, The Primary School, Sturton by Stow, Lincoln LN1 2BY

[View the EMTET website](#)

I am home educating my child who is also my carer. Is there any support available for young carers?

Lincolnshire Young Carers’ is a specialist support service for young carers funded through Children’s Services. It helps and supports young carers up to the age of 18 years. The child or young person needs to have a role of care for a parent, sibling, grandparent or other relative who is affected by a physical disability, mental health condition, learning disability, sensory impairment, substance misuse or long term illness or condition. Young carers offers a comprehensive service which includes someone who will assess the need of the carer, help them to find information and make sure the carer gets the right support. There may also be a chance to join groups and activities with other young carers.

Lincolnshire Young Carers

Email: youngcarers@lincolnshire.gov.uk

There is a potential for young people in Home Learning (in what schools designate as years 10 and 11) to access local college courses.

Key Stage 4 Elective Home Education students are eligible for government funding at institutions that are in receipt of Post 16 funding from the Education Funding Agency.

These institutions include: Commercial & Charitable Providers (Private Providers,) General Further Education Colleges and Special Post 16 Institutions (SPIs.)

This provision is subject to availability both of courses and of places.



Getting started

As parents and carers, some of the most important decisions you make are in respect of your child's education. Deciding whether to educate your child at home or in school is a major decision for you and your family. In this booklet we will try to help you understand the main issues relating to educating your child at home.

It is important to understand that deciding to home educate your child is not an 'easy option' and the decision should not be made in order to avoid behavioral or attendance difficulties at school. You should be very certain that you are doing the best thing for your child and for the right reasons, especially if the decision is taken as a result of a crisis at school. Talk it through with your child as difficulties with other children, teachers and/or the head teacher can sometimes be resolved through open and frank discussions.

Things to Consider:

- the cost, both in financial terms and in respect of your time and energy; you alone will be responsible for ensuring that your child receives a broad and balanced education which is "suitable to his/her age, ability and aptitude and to any special educational needs he/she may have." You will also take full responsibility for any costs involved in your child's education. It may be helpful to plan what your idea of your child's learning will involve or to think what a week's lessons would look like. This will give you an idea of how much time will be required; it will also help you estimate the resources needed and costs involved.
- the quality and content of the education you plan to offer your child - do you have the time, commitment, expertise and resources to meet your child's educational needs?
- whether your child is positive about the idea.
- whether you have the space for a quiet working area.

- the social side of education and play: i.e. playtimes and physical education. It may be helpful to discuss this aspect with your child and clarify his/her feelings on friendships and group activities.
- access to specialized facilities and equipment.
- the support available to you and your child.

We hope that the information given in this booklet helps to answer some of the many questions you may have. This is by no means, however, a comprehensive guide to Elective Home Education and there are a number of useful organizations that will be able to offer you further information, advice and guidance. Details of some of these are included later in the handbook.

Some Tips to Help You Get Started:

After you have made your decision and written your letter to inform the school, then the next step is to plan and prepare to educate your child. This can be very daunting. You may already, however, have a clear idea of how and what you want your child to learn. Whichever approach you favor it is always a good idea to start with the child's own interests and favorite activities to ensure that he/she is motivated and that the start of your learning journey together is enjoyable and rewarding for you both. Regardless of your child's age, you could follow their interests and encourage learning. With younger children this can be done through play, reading and related visits. Your child will be learning and extending knowledge through these activities. With older children a similar approach can be taken but obviously the content will be different. For example if your teenage child is interested in pop music or fashion, they could carry out research about favorite groups or design their own catalogue of clothes etc. Although this may not fit the model of traditional classroom-based subjects, it is quite acceptable as he/she will be developing and practicing skills. It is important to build up their confidence and enjoyment in their ability to learn.

Many families decide to follow a broad curriculum which will cover the core and foundation subjects, with the quantity of the content of each subject being variable. You are not expected to have a fully functioning curriculum in place and it might be best to work with your child to develop an approach and content which suits his/her preferred learning style. Remember the essence of home education is its individuality.

Where Can I Find Resources to Help?

A search on the internet will bring up many sites relating to 'Home schooling', 'Education at Home', 'Education Otherwise' or 'Home Education'. Many of these sites will provide you with useful advice and information. Some home educating parents post materials on the internet to help parents new to home education and a web search such as 'home education quick start' or similar can bring up some useful ideas.

There are also many books available to help parents get started and again an internet search on 'home education books' will bring up an extensive list. Many of these give overviews of different approaches and techniques associated with home education. Some may be available from local libraries although you may have to order them.

There is also a very wide range of books to help children learn. They are available in all subjects and cover the entire age range and ability span. Some take the format of workbooks which often are subject specific and for particular ages/stages as recognized by the National Curriculum. Many are available from supermarkets, booksellers, cut price book stores, catalogue postal services and the internet. A second hand bookshop can be a useful place to look for resources for home education such as books and DVDs.

Other resources will be found on the internet where you can obtain free information, worksheets, quizzes, puzzles and ideas for projects. There is a wealth of help available and using a search engine on the internet should help you find resources and ideas for all ages and for most subjects. Some of the most commonly used ones, recommended by EHE parents in Lincolnshire, have been included at the end of this information.

The BBC website is a useful one as it contains a large amount of information, including a section at the bottom of the BBC Homepage called 'Explore the BBC' where you can find everything from history to weather forecasting. You could also try BBC Bitezize which is an easy to use search for resources.

Many companies and organizations have good on-line resources and will send out information/education packs on request for example the Woodland Trust, National Space Centre, etc.

Television programs are another useful source of information and means for children to learn. There are many documentaries available, as well as dramas, science shows, entertainment programs, quizzes, etc.

What About Qualifications?

If you are aiming for your child to take particular qualifications, you will need to ensure that the books you choose match the syllabuses set out by the relevant exam boards. Most books such as revision/study guides will indicate the syllabus and exam board at which they are aimed. Please note that revision guides may not be sufficient on their own and supplementary material will probably be required.

Who Can I Get to Help?

It may be useful to have an input from another adult, sometimes an older brother or sister, a grandparent, or other relative. Many home educating parents have a wide circle of like-minded friends and contacts and some choose to get together for occasional shared lessons.

Can I Employ Someone to Help?

You may choose to employ someone privately as part of your EHE provision. The LA does not keep a list of approved tutors, so you would need to ensure that any tutor you chose had a current Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check and could provide references. The DBS check ideally should be an 'Enhanced' check.

It is not recommended that private tuition whether at home or elsewhere is on a 1:1 basis, without a second responsible adult being present, as this can pose a potential risk to both the adult and the child. This applies even if the tuition is at a gym or swimming pool, etc. If the tuition takes place at home, then this should be done in a well-organized and quiet area. It is not appropriate to use a bedroom for this purpose. It is essential that you have access to the teaching area and can hear and observe activity at any time you wish. Always make sure either yourself or another trusted adult is on the premises.

Do I Need to Keep Records of What We Have Covered?

Decisions need to be taken about the organization of the home education. The organization will vary from a completely child-centered approach to a very structured, carefully timetabled routine. It is desirable to record what has been learned in order to make informed decisions about future areas of study and to be able to map progress. Many home educators keep a diary or notebook to show what they have covered and some keep a photographic record of work. This will be useful for the discussions with the EHE adviser who will want to ask you about the provision you have made.

It is also good practice to keep examples of work in a range of subjects. These are most useful if they are dated, so that progress over time can be seen.

How Can I Provide Feedback on my Child's Work and Learning?

You can choose to check, mark and/or give feedback in a way which suits you and your child best. Most home educators work closely with their children and therefore provide on-going feedback and encouragement through discussion. Others may choose a more formal 'school-style'. It is not important how the checking is done but it is important that as your child learns and progresses, any misconceptions or misunderstandings are dealt with quickly, as it can be very discouraging for them to carry on with a page of sums or an English exercise and find all of the work is wrong at the end. They also need to know that it is okay to make mistakes and this is often the best way to unpick what they have not understood.

Regular checking/assessing/discussion of your child's work should give you useful information about their progress, and understanding regarding his/her learning, which can then inform your planning for the next steps. It is also essential that you remember to praise your child and give credit for work well done. Again there are many ways of doing this: e.g. using stickers, giving verbal praise, displaying selected pieces of the child's best work, or including best work in a file, folder or special box. However some parents of home educated children do not use a reward system, as they believe that using rewards detracts from children developing as self-motivated learners. Their approach is to encourage their children to recognize their own achievement, which in turn gives the child an intrinsic sense of pride.

Anything Else I Need to Think About?

You will need to consider the social development of your child, which could be enhanced through sharing activities with other children. Joining a variety of clubs and special interest groups can be very enriching, as can meeting and sharing skills with other people of all ages. For some children, however, joining a group can potentially be overwhelming so it is important to be aware of how your child is feeling.

What Can I Do to Help My Child Learn?

- Give your child confidence through lots of praise and encouragement.
- As a parent/carer, you can strengthen your child's confidence and self-esteem, both of which are vital to learning.
- Specific praise focusing on a particular aspect of work, e.g. "I like the way you have..." is more effective than broad, general statements.
- You should aim to give at least ten times as much praise as criticism!

- Read to, and with, your child as much as possible. Even young children can be helped to read notices and signs and understand what they mean but do not put pressure on them to read if they appear reluctant. Try to make it fun by using early reading games or by sharing books together and get them to join in with occasional words and phrases. Most children will begin to read when they are ready and gentle encouragement will help this. Once children begin to read, they should be given every opportunity to read, either with support or on their own. Some may like to have time for sustained silent reading.
- Encourage your child to borrow books from the library, read books online, use books for research purposes (as well as using the internet) and introduce him/her to a range of books and publications of different genres. You should help your child to use reading for a purpose: e.g. following a recipe, looking up the cost of clothes in a catalogue, using a Haynes manual to help work on a car or motorbike.
- Take your child to the library and get them accustomed to taking out books, finding favorite authors, attending story sessions, using the computers and generally making the most of this resource.
- Encourage your child to observe and talk about their surroundings. Take them out to the park, the beach, the playing fields – whatever place is easy - and use every opportunity to talk about what they can see, hear, smell; what they think about where you are; what they like about it, etc.
- [View the visit Lincolnshire website](#) or telephone 01522 782332 for up to date information about events and things to do across Lincolnshire.
- Look out for special events and services for children and young people. These may be advertised in local newspapers, on the Lincolnshire County Council website, local radio, shop notice boards, or parish newsletters. Visit museums and places you think your child might find interesting. In Lincolnshire there is a great diversity of places to visit: castles, museums, National Trust properties, Woodland Trust walks, churches, Lincoln cathedral, windmills, farm parks, galleries and much more besides to interest all ages. (Children have free admission to many major national museums and art galleries).
- Go walking as a family, with friends/relatives, or just with your child. There are a great many walks in Lincolnshire and free maps with walk details are available from: Lincolnshire County Council Conservation Services, telephone 01522 552222; or email: [View this website for information on walks in Lincolnshire](#) or [Visit the Lincolnshire Coast website](#))
- Maps and guides for walks in the Wolds are available from: Tourist Information Services telephone 01507 609289; or email: louthinfo@e-lindsey.gov.uk.

Other walks can be found by viewing the Grantham Canal website:

- [View the Grantham Canal website](#)) for a series of 18 walks along the old canal.
- If your child likes watching television, watch it together and encourage him/her to talk about what they have seen. This will help them to get more out of the experience.
- Wherever possible try to set aside a reasonably quiet place for your child to work.
- Encourage your child to discuss his/her work with you, including your feedback.
- Try to help your child to see the enjoyable aspects of doing the work.
- Most important of all try to make the learning fun, interesting and enjoyable.

What happens next?

The Local Authority (LA) Role:

Children's Services has a duty, under Sections 437 to 443 of the Education Act 1996, to ensure that every child is receiving an education appropriate to her/his age, aptitude and ability and to take certain actions if it appears that a child is not receiving such an education.

The local authority (LA) is encouraged (in the 2007 DfE guidelines) to make informal enquiries of home educating parents and to ask for information. Home educating parents are under no legal duty to respond to such enquiries or to provide such information, but the guidelines nevertheless suggest that "it would be sensible for them to do so."

Whilst Children's Services has no legal responsibility to monitor the provision you are making for your child on a regular basis, it does need to be aware of the provision in order to carry out its legal responsibilities as outlined above. You will therefore be asked to notify the Inclusion and Attendance Team of your intention to educate your child at home and to provide information about the provision you plan to offer. They will undertake a number of checks to ensure there are no safeguarding concerns and that the child's welfare will be promoted through home education. Social Care and the Education Welfare Service will be contacted to see if there has been any previous involvement. The school will also be asked for views on the child's educational progress up to the point when they were withdrawn from school.

These checks are necessary to ensure that Lincolnshire Authority's responsibilities for safeguarding children are fulfilled.

What Does the Inclusion and Attendance Team Do?

When the LA first becomes aware that you have decided to home educate your child, contact will be made by a Safeguarding Education Welfare Officer (SEWO) contact you via a letter with a form that requires completion. This initial contact is to confirm that you have elected to home educate your child, to discuss the plans you have in place for this.

The LA's main interest lies in the suitability of the provision which home educating parents make, not your reasons for choosing to home educate.

If you have changed your mind and decide you would like your child to return to school, the SEWO will work with you to facilitate this.

The SEWO can also offer to carry out an Early Help Assessment (EHA) to provide an opportunity to ensure that the educational and welfare needs of the child are being addressed. This is an entirely supportive assessment which might for instance be to help a family engage with other services (e.g. Health,) if they require support, or it can be a simply to assess generally what is working well, what is not working so well, and what steps could be taken to improve things. Parents choose whether or not they feel this assessment would be helpful and would like it to take place.

What Does the Elective Home Education Adviser Do?

Following the initial contact by the SEWO a settling in period will elapse and, after an appropriate time, an EHE adviser will make contact to make further inquiries about the home education taking place.

The LA employs a small team of advisers all of whom have a wealth of experience in education. They have been trained not only in the law on home education but also in understanding the varied range of, and philosophies on, home education.

This visit will normally take place three to six months of the initial contact from the SEWO

The focus of this contact will be the provision being made and the EHE adviser will be happy to offer suggestions, ideas and advice, as well as discuss your child's progress. When EHE children reach the 14 to 16 age group, the EHE adviser can offer help on where to find career guidance, information about examinations and college placements.

The advisers know that there are many, equally valid, approaches to educational provision and what is important is that all children are involved in a learning process. They will therefore seek to establish positive and supportive relationships with you and will respect your right to adopt a rich and diverse range of approaches to home education with a variety of philosophies and methods.

How Will the LA Decide if the Education I am Planning is Appropriate?

A Support Officer from the LA will contact you, usually by letter, with a form to be completed regarding the home education being delivered.

Other parts of the evidence provided could include enrichment activities such as visits to Museums, Art Galleries, Libraries or the child's experiences as part of an organization or team.

What Happens After the Home Education Adviser Contact?

The LA does not have a prescribed view of what is “suitable” and “effective” education and the EHE advisers know and recognize that there are many approaches to home education. Nearly all of the initial home education contacts are very positive with the LA satisfied with what the parents are doing. At the end of the discussion, a judgement will be made on whether the educational provision is ‘suitable’, or ‘not suitable’ and, shortly after the visit, you will receive a written report. This report will summarize the discussion and confirm the information provided. If the provision is ‘suitable’ you will be contacted again, usually after a year, for a return visit to be arranged to look at what progress your child has made.

The only exception to this is if your child will then be in the final year of statutory school age; then next visit could be in the Autumn term.

What Happens if the EHE Adviser is Not Satisfied with the Provision?

If the EHE adviser is not satisfied with the provision they will tell you and will explain the reasons why. They should also offer some recommendations or suggestions as to how you could improve the provision and these will be included in the report.

Occasionally the EHE adviser will recommend a return visit in a shorter period of time, especially if the child is in the final year of statutory school age.

- If the judgement is that the educational provision is ‘unsuitable’, the return visit will be made after a two month period of time. If the provision is still judged to be unsuitable after a second visit, it is recommended that the child should be integrating back into appropriate education. The LA will endeavor to give home educating parents every opportunity, over a reasonable period of time, to demonstrate that they are providing a suitable education. If the LA is not satisfied that a suitable education is being provided, it has a legal duty under section 437 of the Education Act 1996 to take action. The LA will serve a School Attendance Order, if all reasonable steps have been taken to resolve the situation and have failed. At any stage during the legal

process, parents may present evidence that they are now providing a suitable education and apply to have the order revoked.

What else is in the Visit Report?

The standard report form that you will receive after the contact will have the following sections.

- A general detail and context section
- The arrangements in place for home tuition and study
- Outcomes as a result of home learning
- The recording of any future goals and targets
- An advice and recommendation section
- The views expressed by the young person about home education. This is an opportunity for the young person's views on their future goals and aspirations to be included in the report as well as their views on being home educated.

What is a School Attendance Order?

A School Attendance Order may be issued to parents when the LA has tried without success to liaise with parents to ensure a child is receiving a suitable education. This would usually only happen where the LA has concerns or when parents have not responded to communications about the provision they are making for their child. If all attempts to contact parents fail, the LA would serve the parents with a notice giving them at least 15 days to satisfy the LA that an education is being provided. Parents could provide samples of their child's work or more detailed information about the home education they are providing. The LA will always give families who are home educating every opportunity, over a reasonable period of time, to demonstrate that a suitable education is happening. The LA believes that it is possible to resolve most disputes without moving to more formal statutory procedures.

If parents fail to supply sufficient information to the LA about the provision they are making, however, the LA then has to consider whether it is expedient for the child to go to a local school. If this is deemed to be the right course of action, the LA will serve a "School Attendance Order". This means they will serve notice stating which school they intend to name in the Order and give parents/carers the opportunity to choose an alternative.

- Following on from the Notice being served on the parent, the LA will serve a School Attendance Order requiring the parent/carers to register the child as a pupil at the school named in it.
- If parents then submit evidence that an education is taking place at home or the child has returned to school they can ask the LA to revoke the Order.
- Ultimately the LA can prosecute the parents for not complying with the Order, but

court action can be stopped if the parents then choose to show the court that they are educating other than at school and are doing this properly.

How Can I Get the Most Out of my Education Provision contact?

Although the LA has no statutory duty to monitor the quality of home education on a routine basis, the LA will seek to consider the educational provision regularly through a contact by an EHE Adviser. These contacts will occur at intervals which are mutually agreeable and will in most cases be annually. As described above the primary purpose of the contact is to establish the suitability of the education provision to the child's age, aptitude, ability and needs. In addition to this, the contact should be supportive and enable opportunities for the sharing of advice and guidance on matters relating to the child's education and wellbeing.

You might find it useful to prepare for the contact but there is no legal requirement to do so. There are a number of general things that many parents do to prepare for the contact

Some suggestions:

- What are your aims and objectives with the education you are planning for your child? For example, it could be just to "keep up" with the National Curriculum, whilst waiting for a school place or you could be planning to teach in line with a particular belief or philosophy.
- Have some examples of recent work to hand. Good examples are pieces of written work, a math's exercise book, a project folder or pieces of art work.
- You could describe how you organize your child's time over a week. This could include time for physical activities, visits, reading, shared time with other home educated children, specific lessons etc. If you do not have a regular weekly timetable you could describe the sorts of activities you usually engage in over a period of time.
- Try to include details of all physical activities undertaken and also any activities where your child joins with other children. (These need not be educational.)
- You should try to give details of curriculum coverage. If you have decided to follow a subject approach you could use the subject headings as a framework for describing the provision.
- If you have taken a project based approach you could write about the projects, detailing how and what you have covered with your child using this approach.
- Alternatively if you have brought in a curriculum, you could give details of subjects covered and at what level.
- It is helpful if you list the types and range of resources you regularly use with your child. You could list books which your child has read recently; any workbooks they frequently use; also computer programs, TV programs, DVDs, games, musical instruments, art and science equipment: the list is endless.
- You could include details of how you will assess and monitor your child's progress. For the reader to make a judgement about the suitability of your provision, any information about your child's skills, knowledge, understanding and achievements

will help to build a picture.

- If you intend to pursue any public examinations you might want to include this information and also details of what arrangements you have in place.
- Some parents like to include information about their child's wider achievements and list any certificates gained, prizes awarded, successes, etc. This helps demonstrate that a child's social, emotional, physical and creative needs are all being met.

Who can I contact about a monitoring visit?

The Elective Home Education team can be contacted through: [View the Lincolnshire EHE website](#) or by telephone on 01522 552222.

Case studies

How Three Families in Lincolnshire Have Approached Elective Home Education

In this section you will find how three families in Lincolnshire have approached educating their own children. These have been included to show you the wide range of methods used and are not included to promote a specific way of home educating. We are very grateful to these families for allowing us to include their stories in this booklet.

Case Study One

Family A

I knew that school wasn't the right place for my autistic 7 year old, but I had put my trust in the mainstream education system and was expecting, and hoping, that he and our family would get the support needed. It became apparent after 3 years of mainstream school, including moving to a smaller school for a term, that school just wasn't working. My son needed full time, one to one support that wasn't available to him. My lovely little boy was crying each evening because of school the next day, he disliked learning, he was regressing emotionally and his mental wellbeing was poor. I had to do something. Our entire family was affected. Things were not sustainable as they were. It was time for big changes. I had to take responsibility for our family.

I knew quite a few home educating families locally so it didn't seem a big step to deregister both my boys, then 7 and 5 from mainstream education and begin education at home in January 2019.

I don't think I maybe understood the enormity of how I would feel once we were 'on our own'. It suddenly felt like a big responsibility, too big, who was I to think I could ensure my kids got a suitable education? If trained teachers couldn't teach my elder son, how could I? I was scared of failing my children in taking responsibility for their learning.

I was anxious, with so many questions! Where to start? What to teach? What resources do I need? How should I set up the home? I intellectually knew that learning happened in so many ways, and

that learning through their interests would be the best way to encourage a love of learning, but my fear led me down a different path initially.

I sought support from long term home educators on our local home ed Facebook page but, if I'm honest, I didn't really listen to their wisdom. I was too caught up with my own old school thinking, that children's learning happens around a table, with workbooks and adult led instruction, that in those early days I made the same mistakes these wise long term home edders were warning me about!

So I hit the internet. Everywhere there were websites with curriculums promising me great outcomes, programs that would make my life as a home edding mum easy, subscriptions that would delight my child each month. Basically, too much to choose from! Plus I hadn't yet truly stopped to consider what should be different for us, just that learning at school wasn't suitable.

Now anytime I went online on line or on social media (and had left cookies everywhere during my home ed research!) there were even more advertisements telling me about the next surefire way to engage my kids, save time, get them to be great at Maths and English etc etc

I bought too many resources, signed up to a lot of Facebook groups and blogs, pretty much bought out the stationary section at a local shop and just dived straight in.

All of a sudden, we were doing school at home, not what I intended but what my fear of failure led me to. Things went fine for a few weeks, but it became clear quite quickly that we were all bored with workbooks and 'interesting' books.

I had wanted my kids to learn at home so they know joy in learning, have quality time as a family and have exposure to things they would never get in school. In my fear of failing I had forgotten all this. I went back to the wise long-term home edders and asked 'what next?'

This is what they told me:

There is no one thing that can prepare you to home educate your children, because there is no one way to do it. Each family is so very different, in their learning style, in their interests, in their strengths and passions.

Don't buy expensive resources for at least 3 months!

Take time after deregistering to get to know your kids as learners. Have fun, spent time together, go out, experience new places and laugh together. Make time where you should have no intent on a learning outcome, but are doing things for the sake of the fun and sheer joy. Breathe and relax. Do the things as a family you never had time to. Play board games, draw, watch the stars late at night, visit places (they're quiet-everyone's at school!), read, play, visit family. Be an observer of your child. When are they engaged? What lights them up? What are they saying they enjoy?

Don't compare your kids to their friends either at school or in the home ed community. The whole point is we are seeking educating our kids in a way suitable to them. That means that they will have strengths and weaknesses that make learning look different from their friends. Some will spend time at the table doing math and English, some will unschool and follow their child's lead in learning. Neither is right or wrong, neither is better or worse. There is only what is best for your child and your family!

Find your tribe. Be it online or in person, you will come across groups of people that are on your wavelength. Nurture those relationships.

So, our home ed life looks a lot different to what it did when we first started. I have spent a lot of time working on mindset with the boys (and myself), encouraging them to be brave learners, and pointing out when learning is happening that they don't even notice!

We are born as learners, right from birth. We cannot help but learn. From babies we are processing information from all our senses. This is learning. It took a big shift of thought for me to recognise that learning can happen whenever we see the opportunity. We learn about nature while we are out and about, we learn about our bodies and food at the dinner table, we explore geography as we drive from home to home ed meets and groups. It's always happening. I've noticed that if the children are interested in something we're looking at or talking about, the learning is deep and they will transfer the ideas, knowledge or skill to other projects.

When I was trying to encourage an interest in history looking through an encyclopedia for something to learn about, they weren't interested a dot. When we listened to Michael Murpurgo's audio fiction books about war, the sinking of the Titanic, the Luisitania they were hooked. We spend glorious hours together listening to great stories, learning history and geography as we go, while playing Lego, driving on errands, or painting and crafting. It always surprises me when exposed to rich literature, what observations even young children can make.

A big question around home education is often about how the children learn maths and English.

Everyone approaches this differently. For maths with my primary age kids I have a browse of the national curriculum, pick out the bits that are real life and useful, and incorporate them into our daily lives. The maths concepts are picked up pretty quick that way. I found early on that learning through a maths curriculum didn't work for my kids. Repetitive worksheets definitely helped them remember sums and processes but they were approaching it with a mindset of just getting it over with, and I want them to find a love of life long learning.

One example of this is my 6yo learning fractions. He learned more in 10 mins of writing on baking paper to calculate different quantities of ingredients for recipes than he would have doing the same at the table with a worksheet. He used the learned concepts again and again in baking and it now comes naturally.

Our biggest gain as home edders is that we have a close relationship and authentic strong friendships with other families. We are free to explore whatever learning we choose. We are not restricted to weekends and school holidays to visit museums, parks and places of interest. We can holiday when we like! We can choose how we spend our time. We are flexible in what we do. We were doing a mini project on aerodynamics which one of the boys showed an interest in. This led to one of my son's building cars and roads in Minecraft, and they then spent their evening building a town, considering and researching what being designated a town really meant. What the population would need, transport links and housing availability. They went further in their exploration of this topic than I did at GCSE level! It all started when we saw a fast car on the TV and they asked about aerodynamics.

There are so many positives of home education for us but in fairness I should address any negatives too. For our family there's only one, a quiet house! I sometimes find myself craving peace. There's always something going on. Make sure you schedule some downtime into your lives.

Case Study Two

Family b

I decided to home educate my son as the school were not following his EHCP and my eldest daughter as she was bored and not being stretched at school.

I was previously a teacher and had worked closely with home educated families, I was also home educated for four years as a child so I had some ideas about what to do. I use a set curriculum following workbooks and online programs and also add in things as we go along depending on each child's interests and knowledge.

I find there is less anxiety and stress on the children now we are home educating. The children are able to work at their own pace and they don't get bored having to complete topics they already know. They are learning at their own rate and gaining confidence in themselves. They have they grown in confidence, self -esteem and have greater knowledge.

On the negative side we don't get time away from each other often and they have missed seeing some of their friends every day.

Case Study Three

Family C

I had long conversations with someone who had home educated all her children. I wanted to be confident that my child was getting a structured education and she advised me about what I could use.

I think the biggest plus of home education is that you can select the bits of the curriculum which are teaching life skills. Also I can help my child more of what she needs for her mental well- being so we work to a routine. On a 'school 'day she gets her 'school' work done in the morning and then she can do socials activities or just relax and chill out.

I've found that people who do home educate have a better attitude towards their kids mental health.

The freedom and flexibility are really nice. You can go away in term time so it's cheaper and then when things are busy in the normal school holidays, then we can carry on working at home.

My daughter's work capacity and pace have doubled since we started home education. We both love it. We both absolutely love it.

Her mental health has improved as has her physical health. She is so much happier. It was absolutely 100% the right decision.

I don't think she has missed out on anything with being home educated. There are so many activities for home educated children.

I have found the EHE Officers very helpful and lovely and I have welcomed their input. I love the way they care for the children holistically.



Special educational needs and disabilities

Can I educate my child at home, even if they have an Education Health Care Plan (EHCP)?

Parents of a child with special educational needs have an equal right to home educate if they so choose. This right is irrespective of whether or not the child has an EHCP. The Local Authority continues to have a legal duty to undertake reviews in order to ensure that your child's needs are met.

Parents do not need to have any special qualifications or training if they wish to home educate their child.

What do I need to do if I wish to educate my child at home?

If you decide to withdraw your child from any school to educate them at home, it is important that you notify your child's school in writing. If this is a mainstream school, the school will remove the pupil from their roll and inform the Local Authority (LA). If you intend to educate your child at home and your child attends a special school, you will need to get the agreement of the LA to remove the child's name from the school roll. This is not intended to be a barrier but to protect the interest of more vulnerable children by ensuring that their special needs are considered and met.

The head teacher of the special school should inform the Special Educational Needs and Disability Department of your decision to home educate your child. Following this a meeting should be arranged at the school with the head teacher, yourselves, a SEND Caseworker and an Safeguarding and Education Welfare Officer to discuss how you will deliver the provision in Part 3 of the child's Statement.

The outcome of this meeting could be:

- Consent given to remove your child from the school roll and home educate them or

- **Consent given to home educate with continued support from the school to ensure your child’s special educational needs are met. During this time the child will remain on roll at the school.**

What do I need to think about before deciding to home educate my child?

You will need to plan how you are going to make suitable provision to meet your child’s needs as set out in their EHCP. This means thinking about how you can cater for those needs outside a school setting. You need to consider what sort of learning activities you will offer as well as making decisions about books, resources, approaches, equipment etc. and also how you are going to monitor your child’s progress to show that you are meeting his/her needs.

If the LA give me permission to remove my child from a special school, how will they know if I am meeting his/her needs?

Children with special educational needs can be educated at home. However, where a child has an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) and begins to home education, the local authority has a legal duty to review the plan at least annually for as long as it is in force. This is to ensure that the child's educational needs are being met. Visits may take place according to the LA policy and procedures.

If the provision is judged to “unsuitable” a second visit will take place within 2 months.

If the outcome of the final visit is “unsuitable”, you will be issued with a School Attendance Order (SAO). This will recommend that your child returns to the school which they attended previously and where there should be a place being held for this purpose.

My child has an EHC Plan but did not go to special school - how will the LA know if I am meeting my child’s needs?

If your child has an EHCP, Children’s Services has a legal duty to ensure that the child’s needs are being met. The procedures for a child with an EHCP who is being home educated are the same as for a child without an EHCP, although the time scales are different, if the provision is not judged to be suitable.

You will have an initial contact by an Safeguarding and Education Welfare Officer and this will be followed by a contact from an Elective Home Education advisor within 2 months from the original notification of your intention to home educate your child. (See Section 3 of handbook for details of these visits).

If the provision is “suitable” then further visits will take place according to the LA policy. If the visit is “unsuitable”, a second visit will take place within 2 months. If the outcome of the final visit is unsuitable, you will be issued with a School Attendance Order (SAO). This would be seen as a last resort if all attempts to improve the provision had been unsuccessful.

Who is responsible for the EHCP if my child is being educated at home?

The LA remains responsible for ensuring that the child’s needs are met and for maintaining and reviewing EHCP. The LA must continue to hold annual reviews and this will include assessing whether the EHCP is still appropriate and whether it needs to be amended or cease to be maintained if all the objectives of the EHCP have been met.

What happens at the annual review?

The annual review meetings will be organized by the LA. The first review will be held within eleven months from the date of the last review undertaken by the school, and then annually thereafter. At the meeting the EHCP will be looked at, your child’s progress considered and decisions will be made about any changes that might be needed. You will be invited to attend that meeting and you will be asked to submit a report. This could include details of programs of work, examples of work completed and evidence of progress. This could take many forms ranging from a diary of work covered, any records of achievements, photographs, your own records etc. There is nothing in law that says you have to provide a report but it is advisable to provide sufficient information to establish that your child’s special needs are being met.

How can I show my child’s progress?

Within a school setting, teachers routinely monitor the progress of all children in each subject area. For some children with an EHC plan, this progress can be measured in a ‘small steps’ way, celebrating success at the achievement of a particular skill or level of

understanding. You can record your child's progress through photographs, a scrap book, examples of their writing and math's, diary accounts etc.

If you wish to record progress in a more formal way you could choose to look at P Scales which are written for every curriculum area, including RE and PE. These are for children working below the National Curriculum level 1. [View the National curriculum website.](#)

Commercial schemes such as PIVATS also look at a small step approach to the curriculum in relation to English, Math's, Science, and ICT at P levels and at National Curriculum Levels 1 – 4. They also have a small steps approach for key aspects of Personal and Social development – Attention, Interacting, and Working with Others and Independent and Organizational Skills. Further details of PIVATS can be obtained by viewing their website at: [View the PIVOTS website.](#)

What happens if I don't agree with the decision following the review meeting?

After the review meeting you will be sent a copy of the annual review form and a letter summarizing any action required as a result of this meeting. If you disagree with the outcome of the review, you have the right of appeal to the Special Educational Needs and Disability Tribunal. Details of this will be included in the letter you receive from the LA. In the first instance, your child's caseworker at the LA will be able to offer advice and support.

Is there any help/advice available for me?

There are a number of organizations which can help you and some of the Home Education organizations have areas on their websites or publications which you might find useful. If you have any questions regarding your child's EHC Plan then please do not hesitate to contact your child's SEND Caseworker who will be able to help; you will be able to find their details at the top of letters you will have received from the LA in relation to your child's EHCP. Alternatively you can contact SEND Business Support on 01522 223332.

In Lincolnshire you can get help and support about all aspects of your child's special educational needs from: Liaise – Telephone Number 01522 553351 or email liaise@lincolnshire.gov.uk

They also provide support for parents from volunteer independent parental supporters (IPSs) and they can give help and support at any time during your child's assessment process.

You can get a range of information leaflets by contacting the Parent Partnership Services. These cover:

- Support for pre-school children with special needs’,
- ‘Multi-disciplinary assessment’,
- ‘What is a EHCP?’
- ‘Annual Reviews and the Year 9 Transition Plan’,
- ‘Independent parental supporters’

Other organizations which offer help are:

- [Home Education Special website](#)
- [National Association for Special Educational Needs website](#)
- [IPSEA – Independent Panel for Special Education Advice](#)
- [National Association for Gifted Children](#)

Additional websites can be found in Section 6 of the Handbook.

Are there any tips for getting started?

Every child is an individual and the spectrum of ‘special educational needs and disabilities’ is very extensive and varied.

The following are some general points which might be useful for parents:

- Complete baseline assessments so you know your child’s strengths and weaknesses to give you a starting point.
- Make sure all learning is broken down into small steps and that there is an underlying structure which gives progression to the tasks given.
- With each new task, build in a mix of new skills/new learning, some practice of current learning and skills and some reinforcement of skills and learning already acquired.
- Little and often is much better than trying to teach big areas of knowledge or skills.
- Always look for the positives and reward progress however small by using praise, stickers, rewards, whatever works best for you and your child.
- Try to develop independent learning by having well organized resources, teaching appropriate strategies and by encouraging your child.



Preparing for life post 16

This section deals with the choices available to young people when they reach the end of what is currently compulsory education.

Children must receive full time education from the start of the term after a child's fifth birthday and continue until the last Friday in June in the school year in which he/she reaches the age of 16. (In schools this is called the end of 'Year 11'.) This definition of compulsory education applies to children in school and also to those who are home educated. The Education and Skills Act 2008 increased the minimum age at which young people in England can leave learning, thus requiring them to continue in education or training to the age of 18 from 2015. This does not apply to young people with level 3 qualifications, taken as being 2 'A' levels.

Do I need to do anything before my child reaches the age of 16?

Before your child reaches the age of 16 you should begin to prepare them for the next stage of their life. This will depend on what your child wants to do next, on his/her ability, interests, etc. If your child is academic and wants to go on to higher education, you may need to consider what subjects need to be followed in order to achieve the necessary entrance qualifications. The following section will offer advice and suggestions to help you begin to prepare for the future with your child.

There is a potential for young people in Home Learning (in what schools designate as years 10 and 11) to access local college courses.

Key Stage 4 Elective Home Education students are eligible for government funding at institutions that are in receipt of Post 16 funding from the Education Funding Agency.

These institutions include: Commercial & Charitable Providers (Private Providers,) General Further Education Colleges and Special Post 16 Institutions (SPIs.)

This provision is subject to availability both of courses and of places.

What are the subjects studied in schools in the last two years of compulsory education?

A school would normally deliver study programs in the following subjects. English, Mathematics, Science, ICT, Physical and Religious Education, Citizenship and Personal Social and Economic Education. A variety of GCSE programs of study would make up the remaining teaching time. Many of these would lead to qualifications.

If I want to enter my child for public examinations such as GCSEs, how do I do this?

Your child will have to be registered as an external candidate at an Examination Centre. One way of doing this is by contacting a School's Examination Officer as soon as possible, preferably at the beginning of Year 10 for G.C.S.E.s and their equivalents and the beginning of Year 12 for A Levels and their equivalents. (Some Colleges might be able to help.)

Not all schools are prepared to accept external candidates.

It is important to hold precise conversations with the Examinations Officer ensuring you leave with the name of the specific Examination Board for each subject, the title of the exam and the exact Examination's Specification Code. It is essential the content of your child's home learning matches the potential questions on the exam. paper.

On receipt of the Examination paper's Board name, title and Specification Code, it is possible to match these details on line and reveal the accompanying syllabus: this would shape then the home learning content for that particular examination.

The school will charge the Examination subject's Entry Fee and probably an administration fee. Examination Entry Fees can differ between Examination Boards. (Please note late entries are inevitably more expensive.)

Generally, schools taking external candidates will usually only accept candidates who wish to sit paper-based examinations, not practical examinations. Practical examinations may include some Science practical units, language speaking tests and controlled assessments. (There have been some families who have managed to negotiate with a school the taking of a practical examination – this however tends to be infrequent.)

At the time of writing International G.C.S.E.s are more popular, in our experience, with home educating families because a number of I.G.C.S.E.s do not require practical tests or controlled condition assessments.

It is worth discussing the actual protocols regarding resits during the meeting with the Examinations Officer including the cost of their Entry Fee, the final date to submit the resit entry, and, whether a resit is possible at all.

If your child has designated Special Educational Needs the Examinations Officer will need to know.

The following tend to be the most popular Examination Boards and sites: For more details please view their websites.

- [AQA website](#)
- [Edexcel website](#)
- [City of Guilds website](#)
- [OCR website](#)

Can my child take examinations and qualifications at home?

There are a variety of online programs available but there is a cost with these.

Home education does offer the advantage of being flexible as it can give the young person the opportunity to enjoy a greater balance and breadth of experience without the intense pressure experienced by many students in schools. Exams can be taken over a number of years and some home educators in Lincolnshire have found it beneficial for their child to study a small number of subjects for GCSE at one time and maintain an interest in other subjects. Then the following year different subjects may become the focus for more intensive study in preparation for examinations, thus spreading the GCSEs over a longer period than would be experienced in schools and thereby reducing the stress on their children. It also means GCSEs can be taken earlier if the child is ready for this.

One set of online qualifications are called IGCSEs and these can be taken a little earlier if the child is ready for this.

For details look please [view the Oxford home schooling website](#) or [view the CIE website](#) (for IGCSE use the search engine on this website).

Please [view the National extension college website](#) who will also offer GCSEs. The national body to explore is [the Open distance quality council](#).

[The Open University](#) is willing to accept students under the age of 18 who can demonstrate that they are able to cope with the requirements of the course, both in academic terms and emotional maturity and resilience.

There are opportunities for further and higher education. It may mean starting at a foundation level in order to prepare for higher levels of study. Another option could be to look at joining a secondary school sixth form or a college.

14 – 16 years provision

There may be colleges in your area that would be able to provide programs from the age of 14 but this can be subject to budget and change. It is always worth contacting your local college to discuss whether they offer this provision.

Can my child access careers information before the age of 16?

Career advisers can be sought through local colleges and sixth form provisions who usually have a nominated adviser for their setting. There may also be some independent career advisers that would be able to offer interviews but these would need to be paid privately.

Children under the age of 13 may use this website but will not be able to access the web-chat or phone line support offered by the National Careers Service.

Are there any web-sites that will help to guide future learning experiences?

Yes, here are some websites that will help.

- [BBC learning](#)
- [BBC schools](#)
- [BBC Bitesize](#)
- [Conquer maths](#)
- [Maths watch](#)
- [CIE](#)
- [The Teacher Express](#)
- [Structured Home Learning](#)

What part can the world of work play in the learning experiences of the young person?

The development of practical skills is another important element of educational provision. A suitable work experience placement will ensure further enrichment of the learning experiences of the young person. Please note it is vital to ensure comprehensive insurance is available to the young person while on the placement.

From 16 – 18 years:

College could be important if young people want to gain an additional qualification, increase grades, ultimately become more employable especially in relation to a particular type of job. There are a variety of Course Levels available – full time, part time, evening and distance learning.

Post 16-the next step

When your child reaches the school leaving age, you may wish to continue to home educate. Many families have done this very successfully, whilst others have looked towards vocational courses or reintegration into mainstream schools in order to work towards higher education or some may have entered the world of employment.

What are the options for home educated young people after the age of 16?

After the age of 16, young people should choose one of the following, regardless of whether they have been to school or have been home educated:

- Full time education for instance, a School's Sixth Form, a Sixth Form College or College;
- Apprenticeships including Work Based Learning;
- Home Education for instance Distance Learning;
- Employment;
- Traineeships;
- Voluntary Work.

Where can my child get advice?

The National Careers Service: Phone 0800 100 900 (calls from landlines are free but some mobiles may charge.) At the time of writing phone lines are open 8 a.m. – 10 p.m. seven days a week.

My 16-year-old is thinking about going to school or college to continue being educated. Is this possible?

A young person can continue their education other than at home at:

- a school sixth form;
- a college of further education.

Each of these has its own structure and ethos and will offer a range of courses and qualifications. It is very important to research, visit the college/school and think carefully about which type of organization will suit the young person best. Schools and colleges will produce a free prospectus which has information about their courses and facilities. Get hold of a paper copy or look at their websites for this information.

Contact schools and colleges directly for more information and check the local press for details as well.

My child is thinking about going into Further Education. How can I find out about going to college?

There is a potential for young people in Home Learning (in what schools designate as years 10 and 11) to access local college courses.

Key Stage 4 Elective Home Education students are eligible for government funding at institutions that are in receipt of Post 16 funding from the Education Funding Agency, should Colleges choose to offer this provision.

These institutions include: Commercial & Charitable Providers (Private Providers,) General Further Education Colleges and Special Post 16 Institutions (SPIs.)

This provision is subject to availability both of courses and of places.

Mainstream Colleges generally offer Courses for 16 – 18 year olds without tuition charges but some Private Colleges may charge. Mainstream Colleges will generally provide free of charge their prospectus containing Course information and descriptions of their facilities. Apply for a paper copy or look at the College's website for information.

The available mainstream Colleges are too numerous to list but here are the contact details for a few:

- Lincoln College (01522) 876000 enquiries@lincolnshirecollege.ac.uk
- Gainsborough College (01427) 617471 gainsenquiries@lincolncollege.ac.uk
- Boston College (01205) 365701 info@boston.ac.uk
- Grantham College (01476) 400200 [Visit Grantham College website](#)
- Grimsby Institute 0800315002 www.grimsby.ac.uk
- Lincolnshire Regional College in Skegness 08003 890097 [Visit Skegness Regional College website](#)
- Stamford College (01780) 484300 [Visit Stamford College website](#)
- Riseholme College (01522) 304600 [Visit Riseholme College website](#)

Can my child go to a school sixth form or sixth form college in Lincolnshire?

These tend to offer a range of A Level Courses and Vocational Courses providing help and support also with the university application process. If you are interested you should book an appointment to discuss these opportunities further with the Head of Sixth Form.

There are lots of different colleges and sixth forms in Lincolnshire. It's a good idea to visit them during their Open Days and Open Evenings.

YPLP

The Young People's Learning Provision (YPLP) is a service, provided by Lincolnshire County Council's Children's Services, who support young people across Lincolnshire to achieve their next steps, whether this be further or higher education, an Apprenticeship or paid or voluntary employment. YPLP have bases in Boston, Bourne, Grantham, Lincoln, Louth, Ruskington, Skegness and Spalding. Staff will support the young person to gain qualifications.

YPLP offer alternative education programs for young people aged between 16 and 24. These can be started at any time of the year offering:

- Support to help you progress towards your long term goal
- Access to small group or one to one teaching if you need it
- Access to job coaching and travel training
- The opportunity to gain qualifications

- Support with all areas of life – emotional, behavioral, personal, financial, health etc
- Possible access to the bursary fund
- Possible support with transport
- Support for next steps – college, further education, apprenticeship or paid work

To find out more about the programs contact: [Visit YPLP website](#) or phone: 01522 527928.

Can my child start an apprenticeship?

At the time of writing apprenticeships provide nationally recognized qualifications while giving work experience and the opportunity to earn a wage. Young people may also spend some time in college too. There are 3 Levels of Apprenticeships:

- Intermediate: Level 2 (equivalent to 5 good G.C.S.E. passes – usually taking between 12 and 24 months);
- Advanced: Level 3 (equivalent to 2 A Level passes);
- Higher: Level 4 (leading to qualifications at N.V.Q. Level 4 and in some cases a Foundation Degree.)

Apprenticeships are available in a wide range of vocational areas. [Visit further education and apprenticeship website.](#)

Most take between one and four years, depending on the level taken and how quickly a young person learns.

Browse the ‘Parents’ section on the [apprenticeship website](#) to find out more. This website is also where a young person can search and apply for vacancies using the online Apprenticeship Vacancy Matching System.

Can my child get a job and still gain qualifications?

In today’s tight job market, there are limited employment opportunities for sixteen-year-olds. Much of the full-time work that is on offer is low paid, low skilled and seasonal. If your child wishes to enter employment it’s important to look for an Apprenticeship or a job that includes training in a nationally recognized qualification. It might, however, be possible to transfer the job into an apprenticeship. You would need to speak to the Employer to see if this is an option.

Can my child study for A levels at home?

Between the ages of 16 – 18 it is possible to continue studying from home. There are numerous websites providing advice, support and courses for instance:

ICS learn offers opportunities at A Level and also covers a range of other courses and subjects including: Accounting and Finance, Business and Management, Childcare and Teaching, Construction and Engineering, Human Resources, G.C.S.E.s / I.G.C.S.E.s, Health and Social Care. [View ICS learn website.](#)

- [Inter High](#) offers A Levels
- [The Open University](#) offers Honours Degrees, Foundation Degrees, Diplomas of Higher Education, Certificates of Higher Education and the Open University's own pre-degree Certificates

You should be aware that distance learning can involve the payment of fees.

What is a traineeship?

At the time of writing traineeships are available for young people aged between 16 – 24 who want to work but need additional support to prepare for a job or an apprenticeship.

Traineeships could be appropriate if:

- The young person is not in a job, has little Work Experience but wants to work;
- Has a qualification below Level 3;
- The young person wants to be “Employment ready” or “Apprenticeship ready”.

Traineeships include a mixture of training and work experience providing opportunities for a reference, job hunting techniques, interview skills, and support with Literacy and Numeracy if the young person has not yet secured Grade 4/5 in both G.C.S.E.s Math's and English. Traineeships can last for a few weeks or up to six months depending on individual needs. A successful Traineeship can develop through into an apprenticeship, employment with training or Further Education.

How can I find out about recruitment for the Armed Forces?

If your child is thinking about this as an option, they must be at least 16 years old to start military training and anyone under 18 years old needs parental consent. However, it may be possible to apply to sign up at 15 years and 9 months old.

The [HMR armed forces website](#) has an extensive range of information about each of the armed forces. In addition the individual forces have their own dedicated websites:

- [the Armed forces website](#)
- [the Royal Navy website](#)
- [the Army website](#)
- [the RAF website](#)

Each of these contains recruitment details as well as locations of recruitment centers.

What next?

There is a huge range of qualifications available which means there is always something to suit a young person's learning style and learning level.

Information about the range of qualifications on offer can be found on the [Government education website](#).

It is also important to check that employers and universities value a qualification. You can check this on the UCAS website. [View the UCAS website](#) to look up the entry requirements for the jobs and higher education courses that may be of interest to the young person.

HE Finance:

This is an important consideration. Universities charge fees for courses. However depending on your family income, you may be able to access financial support. To find out more about the costs, students loans and possible grants check the undergraduate finance website:

[View the UCAS Website](#) (for basic information about costs in the UK). Please

view the direct gov website at: [View the direct Gov Website](#) which has a

repayment calculator and student finance overview which has

comprehensive information about fees and loans.

You must also use the websites of individual universities you might be interested in to find out accurate, up-to-date information about their bursaries, scholarships and loans. Higher education is now a 'market' and it is worth while shopping around before you make your application.

Making a decision about which option to take:

Choosing what to do is not something that should be left to chance. A young person will need help and support to make the right decision. This could come from:

- Talking to people – family and friends will listen and discuss ideas. If you have contact with a local school, you may find the careers advisers there could help as they know a lot about these options, know where to get information and can also provide advice and guidance.
- Visiting open days, events and taking part in taster courses at schools and colleges are good ways to find out about an option, as well as see it in action.
- Visiting a careers resource center, possibly in school, will give access to a range of resources that provide information about all the options.
- Accessing websites. www.apprenticeships.org.uk and the Young People section of the direct gov website all provide useful information about choosing options. [View direct Gov Website](#)
- To make a good decision, a young person needs to not only know about all the options available but they also need to know themselves as well. They then need to think about whether what they know about themselves, is a good match for what they want to do.

Are there specialist Training Providers in Lincolnshire?

Community Learning in Partnership (CLIP) is a training organization specializing in skills for the voluntary sector and the community. The organization aims to widen participation in learning by people from rural, coastal and isolated communities. They work with young people aged 16-18 years who have under-achieved at school.

Their work is located in community learning centers in Mablethorpe, Market Rasen and Gainsborough and most of the programs are publicly-funded.

They have a wide range of opportunities available including:

- Study Programs for 16-18s including work preparation, personal/social skills, Math's and English
- Community Learning for interest and personal development in a wide range of subjects
- ICT for beginners and improvers
- Accredited courses in a variety of vocational areas
- Job search and work-related skills for people looking for work
- English and Math's from Entry Level to GCSE

- Apprenticeship training in business administration and customer service
- Support and skills for people recovering from mental health problems
- Teacher training

The centers are open to all. For more information:

Email clip learning at:

info@cliplearning.com

[View clip learning website](#)

Learn Direct are the UK's largest provider of skills, training and employment services. They can help with:

- qualifications in everyday skills like math's, English and IT
- short online courses in subjects from software packages to languages
- vocational qualifications
- apprenticeships and traineeships in a variety of industries with support from trainer/assessor via workplace visits, by phone and/or email
- short online courses in subjects from project management and marketing to languages.

They offer short courses or longer work-based qualifications and have a team who can offer advice and support face-to-face, by phone or by email, depending on the courses and qualifications chosen. For more information about qualifications and apprenticeships, call 0800 101 901 or go to the learn direct website at: [Visit the learn direct website](#)

First College is a work based learning provider with contracts to deliver apprenticeships and traineeships with the Skills Funding Agency. The occupational areas they deliver in include Business Administration, Customer Service, Management, Accounts, Hospitality, IT and Early Years within apprenticeships or as stand-alone NVQs.

In addition, First College delivers a series of short courses to individuals and employers and is able to develop bespoke training to meet the needs of our local employers.

First College hold the Skills Funding Agency contract for the delivery of apprenticeships/traineeships of which is sub-contracted to City of Lincoln Council (COLC) for provision in Lincoln and surrounding areas. To find out more about City of Lincoln Council apprenticeships, please [Visit the government apprenticeship website](#). Their programs are work based as they believe that learning does not have to take place in the classroom, and that the workplace is a potentially rich learning environment. This means that:

- They offer a flexible approach that fits in with personal and work life
- Students achieve a recognized qualification whilst still earning
- The learning relates directly to the activities of the job, so students can often start to see the impact from day one
- Students develop skills that give them confidence to carry on learning and achieve their career ambitions

You can also email College links at:

Email enquiries@firstcollegelincs.co.uk

Or use their website: [View first College website](#)

Access to Music offers courses for anyone interested in music and media in Lincoln and the East Midlands. The college offers courses in Creative Media, Music Performance, Vocal Artist, Music Technology, Artist Development, Music Business, Skills Through Music, Games Development, Games Art and Games Technology.

Learning with Access to Music is different to going to school or college. They are 100% dedicated to music and media and work with people who are equally passionate.

Access to Music Lincoln runs from commercial music and media premises. The staff are all experienced musicians and media practitioners and they get to know their students. They have students going on to university and into the industry.

Access to Music Lincoln also benefits from being part of the UK's leading music and media college which has pioneered creative education in this country for 20 years. Access to Music designs its own music qualifications in partnership with Rockschool, so their courses are the most up-to-date and relevant for 16-18s looking to get into the creative industries.

They offer plenty of opportunities to get out and perform or work at venues and festivals. Students also benefit from national industry opportunities such as working at music festivals and showcases for record labels.

For more information go to [the Access to Music website](#), telephone 0800 281842 or 01522 589 684, or email atm.lincoln@accesstomusic.ac.uk

Details about apprenticeships:

Apprenticeships are available in a wide range of vocational areas. A useful website on this is the [Government website on apprenticeships](#).

Young people can also search and apply for vacancies using the online Apprenticeship Vacancy Matching System.

Information about funding for higher education:

To find out about the costs, student loans and possible grants go to [the UCAS website](#).

For more information regarding loans and a repayment calculator:

[View the Direct Gov Website](#)

For information regarding fees and loans:

[View the Government finance website](#)

Useful websites and information

Lincolnshire County Council

- Elective Home Education in Lincolnshire: for information about visits and other queries about educating your child at home:

01522 552222

EHE@lincolnshire.gov.uk

For information about:

- LCC's EHE protocol please [view the Lincolnshire County Council website](#):

Admissions to schools contact the Education Team:

01522 782030

schooladmissions@lincolnshire.gov.uk

- 11+ selection procedures and choices of selective schools in Lincolnshire:

Please view the [Grammar schools in Lincolnshire website](#).

- Holiday clubs contact the Family Information Service:

0800 195 1635

[View the families information service website](#)

- Events and activities in your local area look at [the Family Services Directory](#).

- Arts events in the county. These can be provided for EHE groups:

- [Paradigm Arts](#)

- Music groups and events:

01522 552818

- Sports clubs, events and courses in your area:

01522 730325

[View the active Lincolnshire website](#)

National organizations offering information, support and resources to EHE families:

- Home Education Advisory Services (HEAS)

P.O. Box 98 Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire, AL8 6AN

01707 371854

enquiries@heas.org.uk

[View the education advisory](#)

[website](#)

- Education Otherwise

enquiries@educationotherwise.org

[View the education otherwise](#)

[website](#)

- Home Education UK.

- [View the home education](#)

[website](#)

- Ed Yourself for information about home education and the

law: [View the Ed yourself website](#)

- Home Education UK

View home

education website:

[View the home](#)

[education website](#)

- Education Now for information about tuition centers

01293 543035

[View Education now website](#)

- Parents in Touch: [View](#)

[parents in touch website](#)

- Home Education in the UK

- [View Edsplace website](#)

- Tutorhub for online tutors

[View Tutorhub website](#)

Local Organisations offering help and support

- Other groups for activities in your

area:

- [View net mums website](#)

- Home Education Lincolnshire

www.facebook.com

- The Showroom on Tritton Road, Lincoln LN6 7QY – PE, games and climbing wall for EHE children.

01522 508360

- Friday mornings at The Meridian Leisure Centre, Louth LN11 8RS – PE and swimming sessions for EHE children.

01507 607650

Travellers support:

- The Ethnic Minority and Traveller Education Team

EMTET Service at The Primary School

Sturton-by-Stow

Lincoln

LN1 2BY

01427 787190

For news, articles, advice, support, training

View the Traveller support

website: [View Travellers](#)

[times website](#)

Support for Young Carers

- Contact Lincolnshire Young Carers

01522 553275

View young carers website; [View Young Carers website](#)

- Help and advice from School Nursing Service - Children and Young People's Nurses

01522 843000 - for an assessment and referral e mail :

bs_healthservices@lincolnshire.gov.uk or [View the County](#)

[Council website](#)

Days out in Lincolnshire

Free maps and details about walks:

- [View walks in the wolds](#)
- Lincolnshire Wolds Countryside Service
01507 609740
- Email: aonb@lincswolds.org.uk

Information about activities

and a range of places to visit in

Lincolnshire [View the National](#)

[Trust website](#)

[View the Wildlife trust website](#)

[View visit Lincolnshire Website](#)

Examinations and qualifications

- Websites providing packs and resources to support learning towards accreditation

www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize

[Visit the Oxford Home schooling website](#) – which includes IGCSE and A Level curriculum

[Visit Wolsey hall website](#) - For information on home schooling college from age 7 years to A Level

[Visit ICS learn website](#) – For opportunities for accredited courses including GCSEs and a range of other subjects including Accounting and Finance, Business and Management, Childcare and Teaching, Construction and Engineering, Human Resources, and Health and Social Care

[View inter high website](#) – For opportunities for accredited KS3, IGCEs and A and AS Level courses

[View open AC website](#) - For undergraduate and postgraduate courses with the Open University

[Visit the government education website](#) - For information about the range of qualifications on offer

Information about examinations

- The following tend to be the most popular Examination Boards and sites for GCSE, AS and A-Level:

A.Q.A. - [Visit the AQA website](#)

Edexcel – [Visit the Edexcel website](#) City and

Guilds - [Visit the city and guilds website](#)

O.C.R. - [Visit the OCR website](#)

- One set of online qualifications are called IGCSEs and these can be taken over several years. For details look at: [Visit the Oxford home schooling website](#) or www.cie.org.uk
 - The National Extension College also offers GCSEs. Telephone (free) 0800 389 2839 [Visit the National extension College website](#)
 - The Open University accepts students under the age of 18 who can demonstrate they are able to cope with the requirements of the course, both in academic terms and emotional maturity and resilience. Pre-degree courses are available. www.open.ac.uk

Mainstream Colleges: Contact directly for information about open days etc.

Lincoln College (01522) 876000 [Visit the Lincoln College website](#)

Gainsborough College (01427) 617471 [Visit Lincoln college website](#)

Boston College (01205) 365701 [Visit Boston College website](#)

Grantham College (01476) 400200 [Visit Grantham College website](#)

Grimsby Institute (0800) 315002 [Visit Grimsby College website](#)

Skegness TEC (0800) 3890097 [Visit Skegness TEC website](#)

New College Stamford (01780) 484300 [Visit Stamford College website](#)

Peterborough Regional College (0345) 8728722 [Visit Peterborough Regional College website](#)

Riseholme College (01522) 895490 [Visit Riseholme College website](#)

Young People's Learning Provision (YPLP) provides education courses for 16-24 year olds across Lincolnshire.

01476 592169

yplp@lincolnshire.gov.uk

Specialist Training Providers and Learning Centers in Lincolnshire

- Community Learning in Partnership (CLIP)

01673 843489

info@cliplearning.com

www.cliplearning.com

- Learn Direct

Freephone 0800 101901

[Visit learn direct website](#)

- First College

Freephone 0800 0192722

enquiries@firstcollegelincs.co.uk [Visit First](#)

[College website](#)

- Access to Music

0800 281842 or 01522 589 684

admissions@accesstomusic.ac.uk

[Visit access music website](#)

Details about apprenticeships:

- Apprenticeships are available in a wide range of vocational areas.
- Parents and guardians can find out more at: [Visit the apprenticeship website.](#)
- Young people can also search and apply for vacancies using the online Apprenticeship Vacancy Matching System.

Careers advice:

- [View the National careers advise website](#)
- Information about portfolios and creating CVs can be found at:
[View the CV and portfolio website](#)
- Information about joining the armed services can be found at:
[View the Army website](#)
[View the Royal Navy website](#)
[View the RAF website](#)

Resources to support home learning

* A variety of resources, advice and guidance can be found on these BBC sites:

[View BBC Learning website](#) For archived resources

[View BBC schools website](#) For topics and Bitesize materials

[View BBC Bitesize GCSE website](#) For GCSE only

* There are charges for the following sites but they have been well received by parents:

[View Reading eggs website](#) -For reading activities for 2-13 year olds

[View Mathseed website](#) -For Math's activities for 3-9 year olds

[View Edsplace website](#) -For Math's, English and Science activities

[View at school website](#) -For online educational games

[View my maths website](#) -For primary and secondary resources

[View Maths wizz website](#) - For 5-13 years

Other sites:

* A range of curriculum and areas of interest about nature for 5 – 7 year olds:

[View arkive website](#)

* Storytelling resources and CDs:

[View the teacher express website](#)

- Some of the following resources are aimed at teachers in school but are just as valid for children learning at home:

[View my school house website](#) (produced in the US)

[View home schooling ideas website](#) [View lets](#)

[home school website](#)

[View home school curriculum website](#) [View](#)

[home school central website](#)

[View boggles world website](#)

[View worksheet place website](#) (produced in the US)

[View activity village website](#)

[View tut world website](#) [View babble](#)

[website](#) (foreign languages)

[View ed lounge website](#) (teaching and learning resources for secondary and GCSE pupils)

[View enchanted learning](#)

[website](#) [View education city](#)

[website](#)

[view SAM learning website](#) (literacy and numeracy catch up programs for secondary pupils)

[View muddle puddle website](#) (for 0-8 year olds. Updated in 2015) [View Twinkle website](#) (Early Years – KS4 and special needs)

[View deviant art website](#)(an art site with a variety of pictures for teenagers)

Other websites to check out for free resources:

[View ducksters website](#) [View](#)

[activity village website](#) [View](#)

[worksheets website](#) [View](#)

[primary resources website](#)

[View fun English games](#)

[website](#)

[View maths drills website](#)

[View maths aid website](#) [View](#)

[maths sphere website](#) [View](#)

[code academy website](#) [View](#)

[the school run website](#) [View](#)

[every school website](#)

Legal advice:

- **Advisory Centre for Education (ACE:)**
72 Durnsford Road, London, N11 2EJ
0300 0115 142
- **Coram Children’s Legal Centre**
Riverside Office Centre, Century House North, North Station Road,
Colchester, CO1 1RE
01206 714650
- **National Council for Civil Liberties**
Liberty House, 26-30 Strutton Ground, London, SW1P 2HR
020 7403 3888
- **Department for Education:**
Ministerial and Public Communications Division, Piccadilly Gate, Store Street,
Manchester, M1 2WD
03700 000 2288

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities:

- **Liaise: for advice and help in Lincolnshire:**
0800 195 1635
- **Parent Partnership Service: for help and support about all aspects of your child’s special educational needs**
01522 553351
- **British Dyslexia Association: 98 London Road, Reading, Berks. RG1 5AU,**
0118 966 8271
- **Advice and support for autism:**
[View the Autism website](#)
- **National Association for Gifted Children:**

[View the National Association for gifted](#)

[children website](#)

- British Institute of Learning Disabilities (BILD):
01562 723010
- Contact a Family. For families of children with disabilities or SEN who need mutual help:
0808 808 3555
- National Children's Bureau (Council for Disabled Children):
02078431900
- Office for Advice, Assistance, Support and Information on Special Needs (OAASIS) for information on a range of learning disabilities:
0800 1381418
- Skill: National Bureau for Students with Disabilities. For information about opportunities for disabled youngsters in post-16 education and employment:
020 7450 0620
Email: info@skill.org.uk
- For information about measuring progress of children with SEN go to
[View the Government education website](#) and search for p scales

Other organizations which offer help:

- Home Education Special:
[View the Home Education Special website](#)
- National Association for Special Educational Needs:
[View the National Association for special needs website](#)
- IPSEA – Independent Panel for Special Education Advice:
[View the Independent panel for Special educational needs website](#)

Reference Books for Parents:

- "How Children Learn" by John Holt
- "How Children Fail" by John Holt
- "Teach Your Own: The John Holt Book of Home Schooling" by- John Holt and Patrick Farenga
- "School is Not Compulsory " by Education Otherwise
- "Learning Without School: Home Education" by Ross Mountney
- "One-to-One: A Practical Guide to Learning at Home Age 0 – 11" by Gareth Lewis and Lin Lewis
- "Unqualified Education: A Practical Guide to Learning at Home Age 11 – 18" by- Gareth Lewis
- "Educating Your Child at Home" by Jane Lowe and Alan Thomas
- "Toxic Childhood: How the modern world is damaging our children and what we can do about it" by Sue Palm
- "Educating the Wholehearted Child: A Handbook for Christian Home Education" by Clay Clarkson with Sally Clarkson
- "Complete Guide to Getting Started in Home Schooling" by Mary Prides
- "Home Education" (series) by Charlotte Mason
- "Home Educating with Confidence - How ordinary Parents can Produce Extraordinary Children" by Rich and Marilyn Boyer
- "Better Late than Early: A New Approach to your Child's Education" by Dorothy N Moore and Raymond S Moore
- "School Can Wait" by Dorothy N Moore and Raymond S Moore